

Dear FCC,

I am a citizen concerned with increasingly large, consolidated media companies and the erosion of the public-service role of the media in our democracy. When it comes to our federally sponsored and regulated airwaves, the FCC plays an important role in making sure the mandate to serve the public through broadcasting is served. I feel this role is being eroded through increasingly loose media consolidation regulations and a seeming disregard for the public-service mandate for use of the public airwaves.

Case in point is Sinclair Broadcasting, a corporation blatantly misusing the federally sponsored airwaves for electioneering purposes. This is both unethical and illegal under federal election law. While prosecuting under election laws is not within the jurisdiction of the FCC, licensing is. Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Sinclair's blatant disregard for its public service mandate is indicative of widespread misuse of the airwaves by consolidated media companies,

especially in the radio medium. Large companies do little service to democracy by producing and disseminating propoganda to many many stations from centralized locations, and the Sinclair case illustrates the need for a diversity of views and news over the airwaves. When large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. I want to see and hear real people from my own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter, not centralized propoganda issued from corporate boardrooms.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

The media plays an important role in the maintenance of our democracy, a role clearly recognized in the Constitution. The FCC's responsibility is to make sure this constitutionally mandated role is maintained. Please don't let corporate heavyweights erode our democracy through blatant electioneering and profiteering.

Thank you.

Alison Macalady,
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Connecticut